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EDITORIAL

IJID 10 years on

With the start of a new year and a new volume for the journal it is a pleasure to be able to take this opportunity to report on the further development and growing stature of the *IJID*.

The journal's online submission system started operating in July 2004. Take-up of this service has been very pleasing and in the past year 85% of papers have been submitted online. At least in part because of this, we have seen a 44% increase in the number of papers submitted to us compared to the previous 12-month period. This is clearly very gratifying since it means that there is increasing recognition that the *IJID* is a good place to publish your work. Despite this increased number of papers, I am very pleased to be able to report that the time from submission to first decision has fallen from approximately 90 days to about 60 days. However, we are conscious that authors rightly expect their work to be published in a timely fashion, and because the handling of paper manuscripts takes considerably longer, impacting on our ability to deal with other papers, we have decided that henceforth we will only accept electronic submission of new manuscripts.

To help ensure that papers become available as quickly as possible we have now implemented "in press indexing" on PubMed. This means that as soon as the paper has been processed following acceptance (usually about eight weeks) it will be published on-line and can found on PubMed and cited in other works. So although paper publication comes later, authors and readers can see the full text of the paper via the ScienceDirect website, and find it on PubMed. We will also be publishing a list of forthcoming papers in each issue of the *IJID*.

Supplements are an important addition to the journal and we were pleased to have been able to publish two last year, one on smallpox biosecurity and the other the abstracts of the 13th International Symposium on Infections in the Immunocompromised Host. Members of the society are encouraged to contact the Editor-in-Chief if they have any suggestions for publishing supplements.

Finally, the journal only operates because of the diligence of its editors and staff. During 2005 Prof Michael Ellis, Dr Marguerite Neill, and Dr Thelma Tupasi stood down having completed their terms of office, and we were delighted to recruit Dr Raymond Smego, Dr J Peter Donnelly and Dr Timothy Barkham to the team.

This year represents the tenth anniversary of the *IJID* and the fact that we have come as far as we have is a great testament to the work of my predecessor as Editor-in-Chief, Dr Don Armstrong, as well as to the many people in the society, our editorial staff and publishers, who have worked so hard. It is also a great pleasure to acknowledge the help and support from Cathi O'Hara and her colleagues at Elsevier, and the huge contribution made by Jackie Parker, the Editorial Co-ordinator, who is the one person we really could not do without!

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